

MODERN TIMES

"What you do is news!"

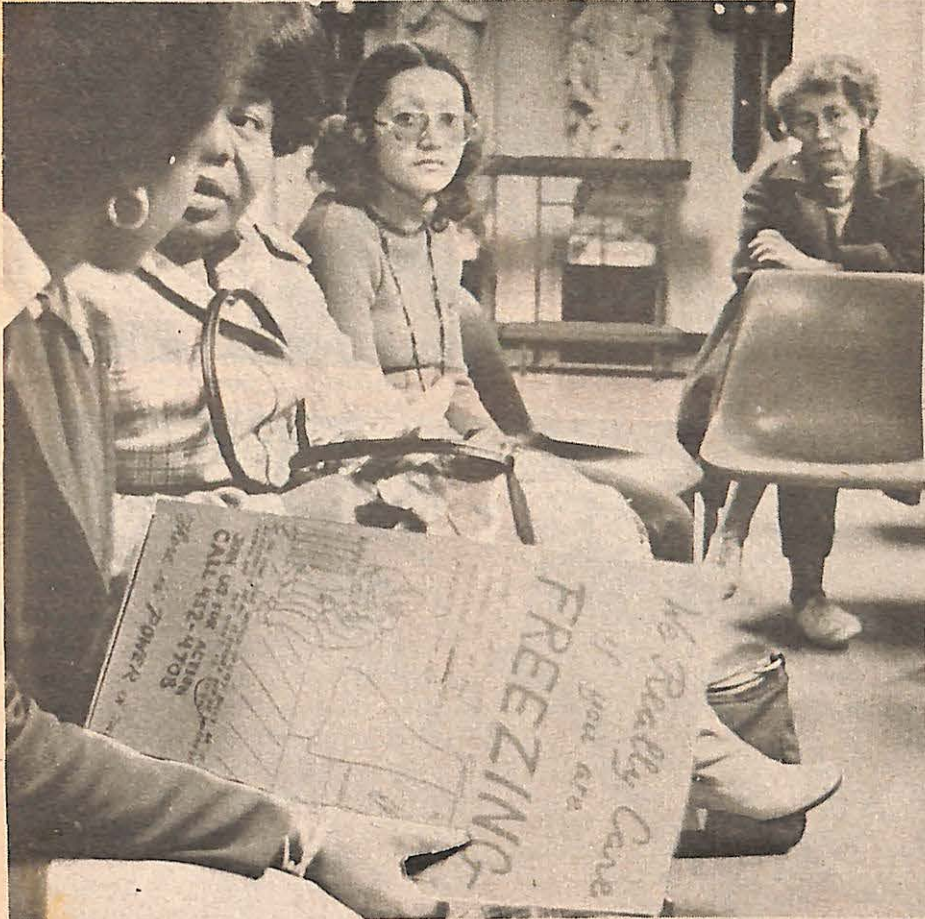
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Vol. V., No. 13

New Haven

December 15-31

Hill Group to Fight Shut-Offs



Sixteen people attended the first organizing meeting for a Stop Utility Shut Offs action group. The meeting was called by community workers in the Hill section of New Haven, and participation in the group will be open to all New Haveners. Weekly meetings will continue at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, 34 Park St. on Mondays at 7:30 pm.

Nutrition Advocate Face Funding Crunch

by Modern Times Staff

In late 1974, one aspect of life affects almost everyone; whether employed or unemployed, young or old. That aspect is increasing prices. A glance at the monthly bills shows how the cost of rent, gas, oil, and especially food are steadily rising. There has been a lack of new programs from the Federal Government to deal with this run-away inflation.

Yet the effect of this inflation is startling, especially among the poor and elderly who live on fixed incomes. In fact, in a country which prides itself on being a "world breadbasket", there is a staggering amount of malnutrition. Lately the media have been filled with reports of elderly people eating pet food in order to survive. And we can only guess at what else is being eaten in an effort to save money.

Nutrition Advocate Formed

It was in response to these problems that a group of New Haveners formed Nutrition Advocate (NA). First organized in August of 1973, the group is in the process of identifying people who are eligible to receive food stamps. At present, NA's efforts are being concentrated on: school breakfast and lunch programs, food stamps, and an elderly feeding program.

The nutrition group is composed of people from the New Haven community. There are still a number of health professionals and community activists associated with the organization. But most important, an increasing number of people who can benefit from the programs advocated

by the group are becoming involved.

This community orientation is the real strength of NA. For by educating people about the programs available to them, NA can bring pressure to bear on the power structure. By passing out information on school breakfast programs, they have succeeded in obtaining the food programs for many New Haven school children.

Many People Eligible

NA estimates that up to 50 % of those eligible for food stamps are not receiving them. The educational aspects of the food stamp program have not been met. Food stores haven't been handling out information to their customers. Additionally, for the most part, on the job publicity has been poor.

Also, to be "on food stamps" has had a negative image. Many, especially the elderly, have shunned the program. And no wonder. People have had to go through a degrading procedure to qualify. They must go to the state welfare office weekdays between 8:30 am and 5 pm. And they must sit there while someone goes through all their personal records to decide if they qualify.

Therefore, it is easy to understand why a large percentage of those eligible to receive food stamps don't apply. This is especially true of people who earn about \$9,000 a year. Food stamps' negative image stops them from investigating their eligibility.

Funding Sought.

However, there is a cloud on NA's horizon. For in order to continue educating people about programs; they need money. And money may be hard to find

see *CAKE* page 8

Ma Bell Catches—!

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

What is so public about public utilities? The service is public, but the profits are very private. The recent "fuel cost adjustments" have focused a great deal of attention on the "public" electric utilities in Connecticut. Just recently, however, a federal antitrust suit against the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (A.T.&T.) offers an opportunity to examine another "public" service.

Our own Southern New England Telephone Company (SNETCO) was named as a co-conspirator with A.T.&T. SNETCO is one of 22 "affiliates" named as a co-conspirator with A.T.&T. (A.T.&T. owns 17% of Connecticut's "independent" telephone company!)

More Revenues Than Most Countries

A.T. & T.'s affiliates service 110 million telephones which are 82% of all telephones in the country. The huge telephone monopoly has assets worth \$67 billion and annual revenues of \$25.4 billion. This puts A.T. & T. in the top ten economic enterprises in the world. It comes out ahead of most countries, and of several continents.

Besides operating 110 million telephones, A.T. & T. handles 90% of all long distance calls in the U.S. ("Long Lines" Department), totally owns Western Electric (sold A.T.&T. affiliates \$7 billion worth of telephone sets, cables, etc. in 1973)

and owns Bell Labs (a 17,000 employee research facility).

What is an Anti-Trust Suit?

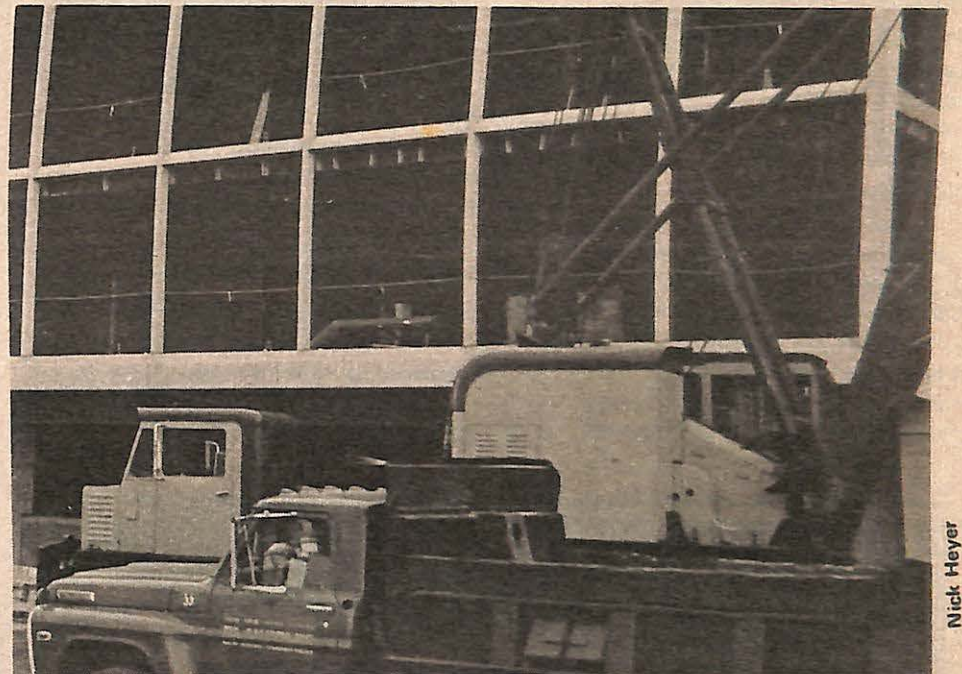
In 1890, a law was passed called the Sherman Antitrust Act. It stated that: "Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy in restraint of trade of commerce among the several States is hereby declared illegal... and that "every person (or corporation) who shall monopolize or attempt to monopolize or combine or conspire with any other person or persons to monopolize any part of a trade among the several states" shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

It turns out that this law has been used more against unions than against business. The popular theory is that when a company takes over a whole industry, it can control the prices and cheat the consumer. If there were "free" competition, popular theory maintains that then prices would be lower, and the consumer would get an even break.

So when the American people become outraged over the huge size and profits of a major company, the government pulls out an anti-trust suit. The federal government supposedly broke up Rockefeller's Standard Oil monopoly, but competition is wasteful and unprofitable for the big companies. So another arrangement was worked out between all the smaller Standard Oil's to keep profits up and competition down.

The result of a break up of A.T. & T's huge empire will probably not mean more

see *WRONG NUMBER* page 8



Our own Southern New England Telephone Co. (SNETCO) has been named as a co-defendant in a price fixing, anti monopoly suit against ITT. Meanwhile, SNETCO is building a new communications center on State St. in downtown New Haven.

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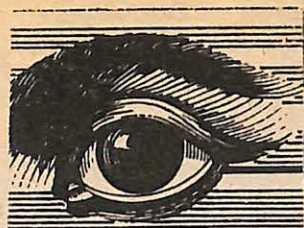
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eye on the board

City's Front-men Figure in Federal Fund Grab

by Andrew Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Currently the hottest item before the board of Aldermen is the question of how Community Development Act(CDA) monies are to be spent.

A hearing on part of the CDA package, held November 21, was suspended when alderman John Daniels (D26) and Frank Logue (D18) objected to the plan which was presented by the Guida administration. The aldermen cited the lack of citizen input as their principle reason for objecting. A scheduled meeting on the public and human services segments of the package has been postponed.

The opponents of the present CDA set-up are stressing the need for broad based city-wide citizen participation in deciding how the monies are to be spent. The Guida administration wants just the opposite. They want to restrict participants to their political and economic allies. Thus, city hall instructed its confederates to fire back at the aldermanic group that wants broader citizen involvement.

Counter Attack Launched

Immediately, The Junta for Progressive Action, Spanish Cultural Association, and Puerto Rican Advisory Council verbally assaulted the board. The trio, proclaiming themselves spokespeople for the Hispanic community, berated the aldermen for using "stalling tactics." They then urged the adoption of Guida's CDA program.

The groups' long time Guida supporters, went on to say: "Our community was given every opportunity to make its voice heard and our proposals and recommendations are part of this plan". The statement also accused the Board of Aldermen of "playing politics with the future of our city..."

If the furor over CDA programs and spending was simply the outgrowth of maneuvering among different groups interested in getting "their piece of the action" it would hardly be worth mentioning. However, there is a great deal more at stake. For too long there has been

only the facade of community control in New Haven. The real power has never left the patrolling political cliques hands.

Who Speaks For The People

What has been done has been the setting up of front groups. These groups, such as the Junta for Progressive Action and their cohorts, only speak the rhetoric of community power. In reality they receive their instructions from their controllers in the city administration and not from the community. It is a game they have been playing for a long time, and one they play very well. Therefore, there is a hollow ring to their claim of representing the Hispanic community of New Haven. What they do represent are the self-interests of a very few members of the community. These groups don't speak for the overwhelming majority of the city's Spanish speaking population. In fact it is doubtful that a majority of Hispanic New Haveners even know that their self-appointed spokespeople exist.

The concept of community control can be realized through the Board of Aldermen. If "Good people" are elected they will respond to their constituents' needs. Thus, it is ironic that those aldermen being attacked for "play-politics" are the ones closest to their constituents.

Conversely, those board members supporting the CDA proposals are the more isolated members of the Democratic Machine.

Community Must be Heard

No final decision on the dispersal of CDA funds has been made. In fact, the hearings on the program are scheduled to resume in the next two weeks. There is still time for all New Haveners to express their thoughts and to make suggestions on how CDA monies are to be spent.

The alderman fighting for more community input have managed to open up the process a bit. However, expressing opinions at public hearings is only a beginning.

We must also think ahead to 1975. Next year we will have a chance to replace unresponsive aldermen when they seek re-election. In order for us to have true community input into city programs, we must remove the Vincent Mauros (D3) of the board. They must be replaced by aldermen who will be responsive to the community and not to the established political bosses.



John Daniels (D-26)



Frank Logue (D-18)

Yale Teach-In On US Economic Slump

by Kirk Mellor

Usually, at Yale, there are not many events that speak to the interests of the average citizen in New Haven. But, the teach-in last Monday was an exception. The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE), a national organization for students and faculty, has called for teach-ins across the country to criticize the fake solutions for unemployment and inflation recommended by the President. The New Haven teach-in was part of this call.

Over 50 people came to hear Marxist economist David Levey and Yale graduate student Ian Parker. Levey said that capitalism is prone to crisis because there is a tendency for the rate of profit to fall. This forces capitalists to search constantly for ways to offset this by organizing capital in more efficient ways (mergers) and by getting more out of their workers (speed-ups). But, because this process occurs in fits and starts, all kinds of ramifications occur in the financial and stock markets.

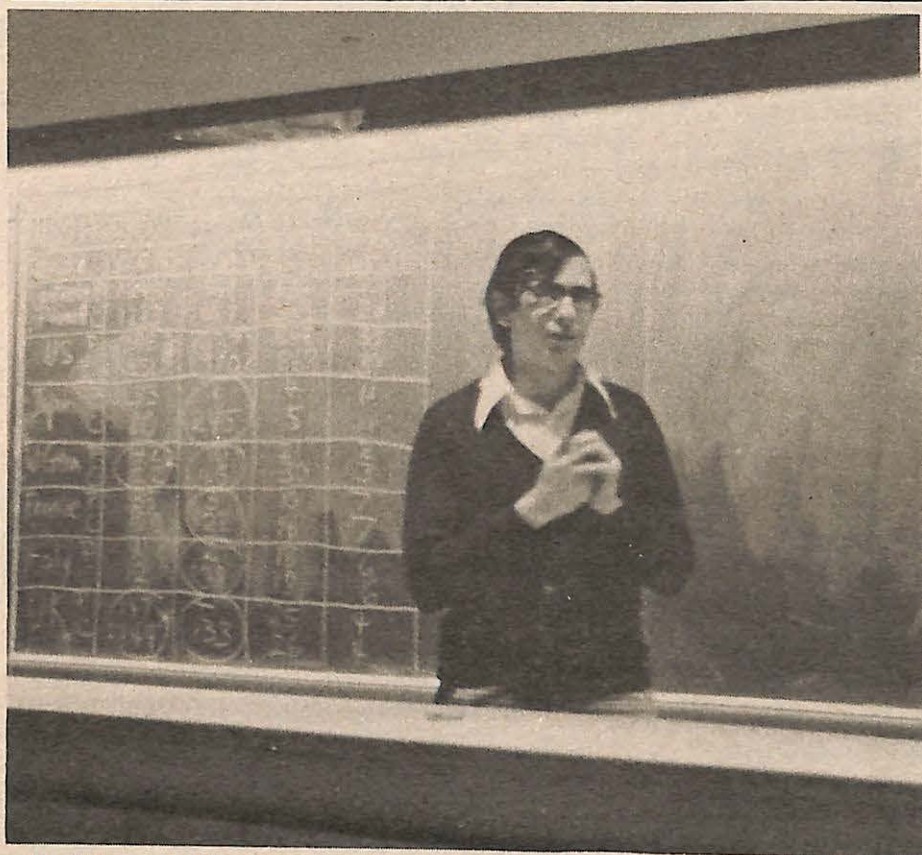
Levey warned against thinking that any particular economic crisis might be the last crisis where capitalism breaks down. He ended his hour long talk to non-economists by urging people to organize and fight back against capitalism at a time when it is weakened.

International Game

Ian Parker began where Levey left off and went on to describe how the crisis gets played out among countries. One of the central developments in world oil is the simple fact that the oil producing nations are rapidly accumulating huge reserves of dollars from the sale of their oil. The effect of this is to shift economic power away from the industrialized nations (US, Europe and Japan) to the oil-producing nations of the Mid-east and Venezuela. Economic power here means the ability to decide where to re-invest the oil money. So, the industrialized nations are not as powerful; they must sell anything, including arms, to those nations (as France and the US will do).

Parker explained, however, that the third world nations who do not produce oil remain outside this power play, and this is tragic because they are the nations which need food for their starving people. In the question period following, Parker speculated that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) might become the financial mechanism which assists the hungry nations. Levey cautioned against such optimism because it overlooks the real basis for relations among capitalist nations, which is self interest.

The teach-in was high-lighted with labor songs from the 1930's sung by Sandy Levey and Michael DeFosh. Those songs of hard times in the strike years were as essential then as they are now.



David Levey, a Marxist economist from New York, gives teach-in participants a Marxist view of our present crisis.

New Group to Improve Women's Health Services

Where does a New Haven woman go if she needs an abortion? Planned Parenthood estimates 4,000 to 6,000 women in New Haven County will seek abortions in 1974. The demand in Fairfield County is practically the same. Although the Yale-New Haven Hospital has had an active abortion service for many years it has not expanded its services in several years nor does it have any immediate plans to do so.

Yet the hospital, which is the only substantial provider of abortion services in these two counties, provides only 2,000 outpatient abortions and 200-300 inpatient abortions per year. Obviously several thousand women each year must go elsewhere for their abortions—usually to New York. This trip adds to the expense, emotional stress and implied guilt of the abortion for these women.

New Health Service

Finally some steps are being taken to remedy this deplorable situation. Women's Health Services, Inc. (WHS) is a community group which seeks to improve health care for New Haven women. The immediate objectives of WHS are 1) to provide high quality pregnancy counseling and outpatient abortion services on a sliding scale with a maximum total fee of \$125; 2) to serve as a catalyst for focusing educational, advocacy and training efforts for women in health.

As soon as it is financially and administratively feasible, WHS intends to expand its medical services to offer general outpatient gynecological services to women of all ages at low cost, with a sliding scale. WHS' long range vision is to mobilize New Haven area women of diverse racial, economic, and political backgrounds to assert their responsibility for their own health and health care and to gain the power to make the health care system more responsive to their needs and the needs of their families and communities.

More Planning Needed

As of now the Board of Directors of the Women's Health Services is still at work

on the planning and financing stages. The board is composed of representatives of many of New Haven's women's and health groups, including Women vs. Connecticut (the group that successfully challenged the Connecticut anti-abortion laws), the Hill Health Center, CHCP (the Long Wharf Health Plan), the Fair Haven Health Clinic, the Inner City Teenage Parenthood Program, the Health Department Family Planning Program, Women's Abortion Referral Service, and Planned Parenthood.

The executive director of WHS, Ms. Harriet Bograd, a lawyer with experience in the development and management of alternative institutions related to health and education is trying to raise \$25,000 in order that WHS may qualify for a loan from the New York-based Planned Parenthood—World Population, a branch of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. The loan of about \$90,000 would allow WHS to get going and provide care until it could support itself on its fees. Hopefully, WHS would be self-supporting within 18 months after opening.

Realistic Goals

Although ultimately committed to far reaching changes in the provision of health care in America, WHS recognizes the necessity of beginning with a set of realistic, achievable, short-term action plans. These plans include training in interdisciplinary teamwork for the staff. One thing teamwork means is that doctors will not be decision-makers in areas beyond their special expertise. At WHS, a special emphasis will be placed on respecting and guarding the patient members rights to confidentiality and consent.

The educational goals of WHS will be based on discovering what women members want to know about their bodies, health care or sexuality and assisting them in developing educational programs based on their needs and interests. It is hoped that patient-members will actively participate in running the Women's Health Service. This should provide experience, skills and a power based for women to be more effective consumer representatives in health care systems.

Strong Support for Local Union



A few of the informational picketers who participated in the Dec. 6th mass picket at the Children Center.

by Local 1303, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Over 100 unionists and concerned citizens picketed outside the children's Children's Center on Friday protesting the Center's reluctance to negotiate the wage reopener in the contract between the Center and Local 1303.

Their is an all out effort by management to destroy our union contract. First, they offer a merit system with no grievance procedures. They openly admit to offering money they don't have. Second, they loose an arbitration case and retort

by wanting to change our Discharge and Discipline Clause. Then to top it off, they say there is no contract and they will not go to arbitration again.

They have non-bargaining unit employees doing our work and this combined with their attempts to destroy our grievance procedure amount to an outright effort to destroy the union.

We have accepted the contract in the presence of a state mediator back in May with the expectation of building a strong grievance committee. This has been accomplished and the Center can't accept.

Representatives from the national, the United Farm Workers and the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council affiliates comprised the picket line.

Labor Notes

Grape Boycott Costing Growers \$25 Million

The grape boycott is costing Delano and Fresno, table grape growers, nearly \$25 million, Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, announced last month. Chavez, citing U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics, said, "There are more table grapes backed up in cold storage today than at any time in history of the table grape industry because the growers can't find markets for them."

According to USDA, there were 4,150,280 boxes of unsold grapes, or over 95 million pounds in cold storage on Sept. 30. On the same date in 1969 at the height of the first grape boycott when California table-grape growers recognized the Chavez-led United Farm Workers there were 3,521,180 boxes in cold storage.

Chavez termed the cold storage figure "the most significant sign of the boycott's growing effectiveness that we've seen," and said, "the stronger the boycott, the more grapes are kept in cold storage."

The UFW president attributed the increase in the boycott's strength to the solid support of the AFL-CIO, the UAW, and other labor organizations

DO NOT BUY

Table Grapes and Lettuce

All table grapes and lettuce that does not bear the union label of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).

Plastic Pipe and Fittings

R.&G. Sloane Manufacturing Corp., Sun Valley, Cal. On strike since March 11, 1973 (United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers).

Furniture

Rowe Furniture Co., Poplar Bluff, Mo. On strike since July 11, 1973 (Upholsterers International Union).

Cigarettes and Tobacco

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. producers of Winston, Salem, Camels, Doral, and Vantage cigarettes, Winchester little cigars, and Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco (Tobacco Workers International Union).

Eyeglass Products

Eyeglass frames and lenses, contact lenses, sunglasses and safety glasses manufactured by Dal-Tex Optical Co. These products are sold by numerous retail opticians, optometrist, "vision centers", department stores, etc. including Vision Centers Inc., Missouri State Optical and Opti-Cal of Cal.

Liquors

Stitzel-Weller Distilleries, producers of Old Fitzgerald, Cabin Still, Old Elk, W.L. Weller (Distillery Workers).

Printing

Kingsport Press, producers of "World Book" and "Childcraft." (Printing and Graphic Communication Union; Graphic Arts International Union; International Typographical Union; International Association of Machinists.) Los Angeles Herald Examiner (10 unions involved covering 2,000 workers.)



editorial

Another Swift Kick in the Pants

A seven percent increase in the price of food stamps? Are you kidding, Mr. President? With profits in the oil industry up 77 percent, in the coal industry up 181 percent, in the beef processing industry up 121 percent in the first quarter of 1974 alone—who are you kidding? Even now, to get food stamps, you've got to go down to the state welfare office and bring your bills, your debt letters, and if you're lucky enough to have them, your checkbook and bank book. You've got to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that you're poor.

The people you are serving, Mr. Ford, are only the tiny minority of Americans who are rich. We, the majority, didn't put you in office, but we can take you out. It's our labor that makes your America. Every step you take to deny us any part of our already meager portion of the fruits of our labor is another step toward our reclaiming the huge portion which we rightfully deserve. A seven percent increase in the price of food stamps is another slap in our already stinging faces. It can't go on forever, Mr. Ford.



money talks

Undemployment No Fault of Workers

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Whether or not you believe that America's economic system is worth keeping anymore, you will have to admit that unemployment is a scandal, a crime and a national shame. Workers lose wages, firms lose profits, consumers have less to consume. Nobody benefits from it and as the United States' unemployment rate rushes to reach 7 % for Christmas, the least that concerned Americans can do is take a long, hard look at this needless hardship for us all.

As you read these lines, over 6,000,000 Americans are officially listed as out of work and looking for jobs. No matter how skilled or careful or reliable or honest these people are, they were laid off. It was no fault of theirs. The boss explained it in a few words, "Look, I can't keep paying you when I've got no money coming in, can I?" It was not the bosses' fault, said the boss. That was the line of the government, too: "It's not us politicians. We don't control the giving or taking of jobs in the nation's offices and factories."

One-third of the Auto Payroll

This thing that is nobody's fault is a demon that gets more mysterious the more you look at it. The worst hit industry these days is the auto business. There are now nearly 100,000 auto workers on indefinite layoff and another 150,000 on what the company executives call "temporary" layoff. Together, this adds up to one third of the 750,000 total auto payroll. But think about another fact of the automobile industry: in 1974, new car prices rose an average of over \$500. With an increase like that, it is no wonder that one third fewer cars are being sold these days than at this time last year.

Other industries look a lot like auto: higher prices, fewer sales, more layoffs. What sense is there in this?

To look at unemployment from the eyes of someone out of work brings it all home to each of us human beings and patriotic citizens. When laid off, a worker is supposed to have a right to government assistance since the difficulty is not the worker's fault but is considered a national problem.

No Unemployment Insurance

This assistance goes by the name of unemployment insurance. Created by laws passed in 1935, this insurance program has changed

little in the last forty years. Because so many types of workers are excluded by this law, only 4 out of every 10 unemployed workers are in fact insured. Thus, in August, 1974, when 5 million Americans went jobless, only two million received any benefits. Farm workers, household workers (maids, etc.), most public employees, young people just starting out, and those who have been unemployed for more than 39 weeks—these people laid off through no fault of their own were forced to live off their friends, relatives or public welfare. No insurance for them. Among these millions of unjustly treated American citizens, the percentages of women and non-whites are much higher than their percentages among those still holding jobs.

Unemployment threatens all workers, but certain workers even more than all others.

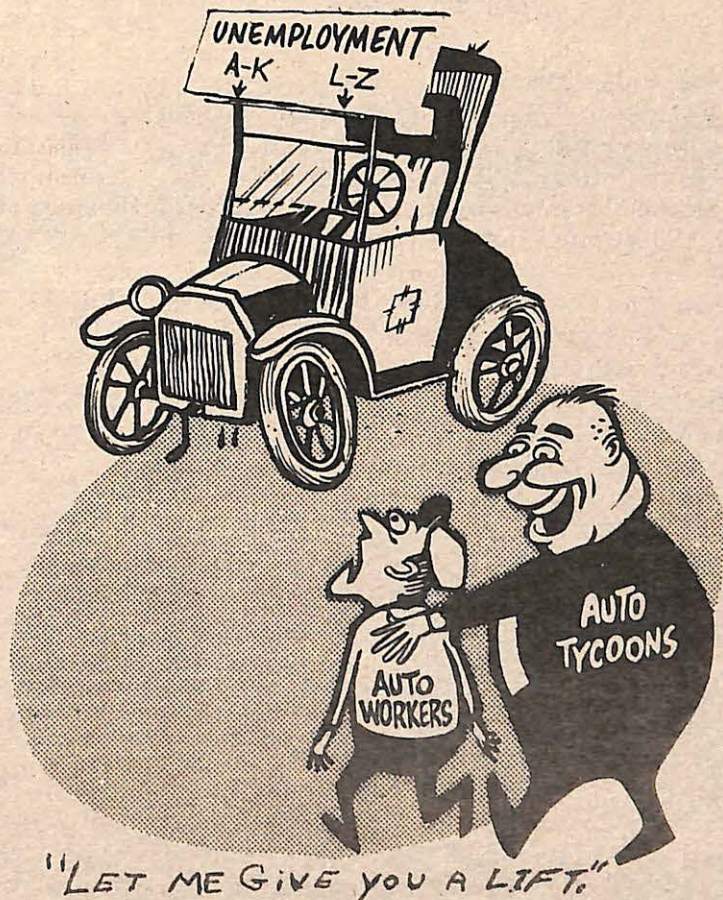
If we believe the workers, the employers and the government when they each say that unemployment is not their fault, where does the fault lie? The clue to the answer lies in another comment many

people make about unemployment: "What can I do, there is no other choice."

Unemployment is a result of everyone playing by the rules of the game. The game is the current US economy. Its rules are those that keep workers and employers in their positions even when both suffer—although obviously not equally—from the way the rules work.

Unemployment is Unnecessary

Unemployment has been a demon who visits American workers every few years for as long as this economy, capitalism, has been the name of the game in the US. So long as we don't change the rules and set up a new game the mysterious demon will come back to haunt us in the future as it has in the past and the present. The majority of Americans are, after all, working people who have every reason to set up an economic system which first and foremost guarantees every citizen useful employment. And so soon as large numbers of working people decide that they have had it with the old game, then big changes are on the way.



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MODERN TIMES

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MODERN TIMES welcomes
all comments and
letters to the editors.

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

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open line

Data Bank Snooping Should be Labeled Theft

by Frank Cochran

Last spring I wrote a short article for *Modern Times* in which I described the operation of the Medical Information Bureau, a Greenwich-based data bank operated by over 700 life insurance companies which write about 99 percent of the life insurance in the United States. MIB has coded information, largely but by no means exclusively medical information, about 19 million people. If you have applied for life insurance within the past six years and there is anything about you which the company to which you applied considers an "impairment," it will be coded in the MIB.

There are a number of peculiarities about MIB, but perhaps the most basic is the notion that information about people's personal lives and medical histories can become the property of an insurance company merely because the person is willing to disclose it in the negotiations which may (or may not) lead to a contract of insurance. Yet that is precisely the assumption underlying the existence of MIB. When a person applies for life insurance and reveals medical information otherwise protected by general rules of confidentiality to support the application, the company without explicit authorization, appropriates that information and sends it to the MIB. In any other context, that would be considered stealing. For the life insurance companies it is just business. No more arrogant assertion of corporate monopoly power exists anywhere.

CCLU: Restrain Infringement

MIB thus represents a gross infringement of the control people should have over their lives. The Connecticut

Civil Liberties Union (CCLU) has asked Connecticut's Insurance Department to give applicants for life insurance full control over the disposition of any personal information, medical or otherwise, which the company gathers to base its decision whether to offer insurance. Ironically, even though the MIB is not the result of a lawful process, the Insurance Commissioner may well be without legal power to curb it. But he can and, if sufficient pressure builds, probably will, move to restrain life insurance companies from discriminating against people who assert their own property interest in the information.

Several years ago, Yale law professor Charles "The Greening of America" Reich wrote a provocative law journal article called "The New Property," in which he sought to persuade radicals that the reasons behind the concept of property had some protections against overreaching powers, notably the government's. The problem, as Reich saw it, was that too few people had or, under American capitalism, could have, property in its traditional form.

Government "Gifts" Get Due Process

He therefore proposed that whatever things people had to be considered as a matter of constitutional law to be property, and thus protected, even if the person had nothing more exalted than welfare benefits. Reich's argument was the cornerstone of the "due process" explosion of the late 1960s and early 1970s in which courts held that all kinds of what had previously been considered gifts from the government were entitled to legal protection.

The problem was that courts shied away from calling these things property. The idea of property became irrelevant rather than expanding. Private corporate power went largely unchecked while the government was being forced to act fairly.

If the information revealed by applicants for insurance to the companies were considered that person's property, the insurance companies could not act in the cavalier manner represented by the MIB anymore.

The Connecticut legislature should pass a statute affirming explicitly that it does not change its character merely because that individual chooses to reveal it to an insurance company to support an application for insurance. It would then be obvious that the MIB is a rip-off, and that individual's have the right to demand destruction of any file the MIB has built up on them without their explicit authorization.

(Note: The author is the Legal Director of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc. The views expressed herein, however, are his personal views and do not necessarily represent those of the Foundation or of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union or those of *Modern Times*.)

(Editors' Note: In a capitalist society in which all value is based on property, we recognize that at times it may be necessary to defend the basic human right to privacy by couching it in terms of property. However, the position of *Modern Times* is that privacy is an inalienable right which should be affirmed and guaranteed on its own terms.)

brass tacks

U.S. Auto Production An Edsel to Workers

by Mike Holodnak
Modern Times Staff

Leisure time for gainfully employed workers is beneficial and often creative. Assured of an income and knowing that they're contributing toward bettering the quality of life in our society, these workers maintain their self-respect.

But leisure time for unemployed workers is a hell of a lot different. It has a debilitating effect on the unemployed both physically and emotionally, and also adversely affects the society.

Yet it has been decided by heads of the auto industry that over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays 180,000 auto workers—nearly one-fourth of the industry's total labor force—will be jobless until at least Jan. 6. Those who were laid off "indefinitely" will most likely never be recalled.

Douglas Fraser, United Auto Workers vice-president, said that Chrysler may have manipulated the shutdowns by building more cars than it could sell in order to save holiday pay.

He also stated that the UAW would talk of the shorter work week.

At last the International is saying what many of its members were saying over 10 years ago, "A 30-hour week at 40-hours' pay." In fact, back in 1964 this was one of the demands in the contract negotiations between Local 1010 and Avco. Unfortunately the International, which was a party to the negotiations, didn't push the issue.

Unemployment in Trouble

In the meantime the cushion against layoffs, the Supplementary Unemployment Benefits system (SUB), is in very serious trouble.

Workers become eligible for SUB benefits after accumulating a years' seniority. The company figures the worker's straight-time weekly take-home pay (minus overtime) by deducting all income and Social Security Tax deductions. From that is subtracted 5%, and an additional \$7.50, representing assumed travel and meal expenses while working. This brings its figure down to about 91% of straight-time take-home.

After a week's waiting period, the worker collects state unemployment insurance, and as much SUB money as will bring his/her total up to 91% of straight-time take-home pay.

But, the SUB payment, unlike the unemployment insurance benefits, is taxable, bringing down the amount further.

So, while young married workers with one or more children have accumulated debts based on 100% of their usual pay, they will end up under SUB with an income of only 75% of normal. And even that 75% is in danger of being cut off.

The SUB can provide only for temporary layoffs during model changes or short-time inventory adjustments. But it cannot cover indefinite layoffs.

And so, under the auto companies high-profit policies, the rip-off of the workers and consumers is continuing in high gear.

Industry Speed-up Cited

In late 1973 Henry Ford called for a 10 million car year for 1974 models. The 1973 total was nine million.

To get an extra million in 1974, few if any workers were added to the work force. Compulsory overtime, speed-ups and the use of thousands of young workers, many of them black, were the methods used.

Donald Bastian, Ford's vice-president of Manufacturing Groups, said that North American production exceeded the previous year's record.

"Our 20 assembly plants in the US and Canada," he said, "have set monthly production records in eight of the last nine months."

And, of course, for overproduction, the workers' reward is a swift boot out the door into the street.

Ford, in last year's negotiations with the UAW, has refused to consider a 54-hour work week limit. It wanted the "sky's the limit" on overtime, 7 days a week 10-12 hours a day.

Nationalization is the Answer

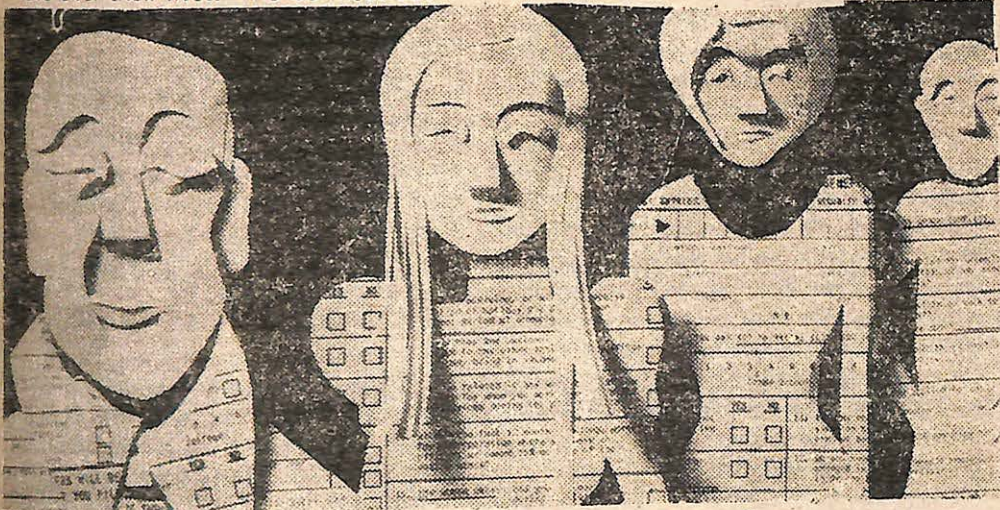
Ford has also announced it is gearing up a 300 million dollar plant in Dictator Franco's Spain, which could take work away from British Ford workers who, a couple of years ago, had the audacity to demand a living wage.

Chrysler did the same against the British Chrysler workers, threatening to take 18,000 jobs to Japan and France.

Also, the economic downturn of the Big 3 giants will have a spiralling effect on other industries, particularly steel, rubber, plastics and glass. Some of the repercussions are already well under way in Douglas & Lomason Co., Uniroyal Inc., B.F. Goodrich, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, etc., where layoffs are taking place by the thousands.

Yet, the layoffs, which began some months ago, are now being blamed on the United Mine Workers who only recently, and for very good reasons went out on strike.

Douglas Fraser's other statement that, "Maybe nationalization of one of the auto companies might come into the picture, it's the brightest suggestion today," was like music to my ears. Finally it's becoming respectable to talk about running this country democratically, by giving the public a voice in what is happening.



Community Calendar

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Sat.
Dec. 14 | AJDE Folk Ensemble. Folk dance performance and a party. Starts at 8pm at the Educational Center for the Arts, 55 Audubon St. \$1.50 admission. |
| Sun.
Dec. 15 | Author's Tea: Finn Jensen. The author of "The Betrayal" will be the guest speaker of the Milford Fine Arts Council and the Milford Public Library. At the Milford City Hall, 2:30-4:30pm. Refreshments served. Free admission. |
| Mon.
Dec. 16 | Stop Utility Shut-Offs. For anyone interested in working to control runaway utilities. Planning and activity meetings every week at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, 34 Park St., 7:30pm. For info call: 432-4708. |
| Tues.
Dec. 17 | Gingerbread Sculpture. An annual holiday event at the Teacher Center. With Ian Murray. \$1 fee for materials. The Teacher Center, 425 College St., 3:30-5:30. For info call: 776-5987. |
| Every
Day | Rotating Exhibit and Gallery Space. The Arts Council of Greater New Haven, Inc. has just opened a gallery at the renovated McLagen Foundry at 33 Whitney Av. The first show features works by Roger Van Damme, Jane Willoughby, Nancy Eisenfield, Flo Hatcher and Hedwig Lindsay. |
| Every
Week | At the Women's Center. Sundays at 2:30 Divorce and Separation Rap Groups; Mondays at 5:30 Women's Self Defense and at 8:00 Lesbian Rap Group; Tuesdays at 8:00 Open Rap Group; Thursdays at 8:00 Women vs. Conn. and Abortion Referral Project Groups; Fridays from 3:30-5:30 Walk-In Counseling Service for Women. Visit or call the Women's Center, 415 Park St. 436-0272. |

Local Judges Play Rebel Hide & Seek

by Ed Linehan
Modern Times Staff

What do the names Whalley, Goffe, and Dixwell suggest to you? If you have recognized them as three of New Haven's major thoroughfares, which incidentally all begin at one end of Broadway, then you are not alone. Ninety out of a hundred people living in this area would make the same association. However, if you also think of three judges who were involved in the conviction and sentencing to death of a King of England, then you are a member of a much smaller group. You know something about why those New Haven streets got their particular names.

Edward Whalley, William Goffe, and John Dixwell each spent some time in New Haven hiding from English Authorities who wanted to revenge the execution of King Charles I. The image of three fugitive, Puritan judges hiding in the homes and hills of New Haven is one of the most romantic and interesting of this city's early history. To better understand what took place in New Haven, we must first look at events in England from about 1600 to 1660.

England had been going through tremendous social change, both religiously and economically. These changes were

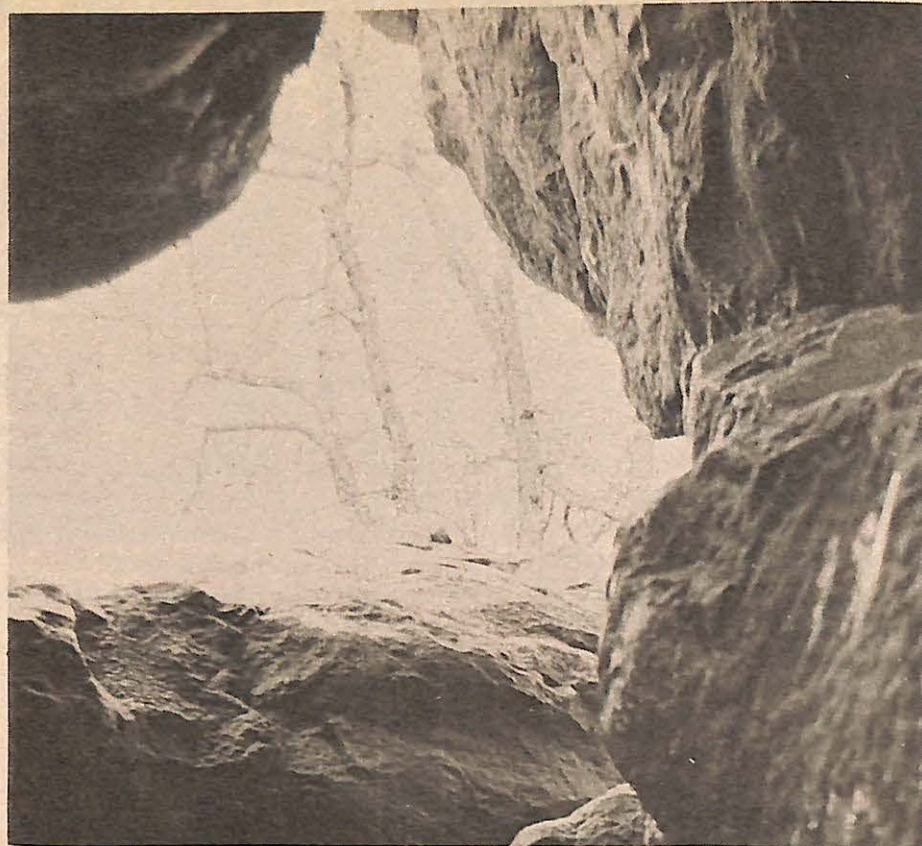
resisted by the political structure of the country, namely the King, other members of royalty, and the church of England. The king and his church could see that their power was in jeopardy if they allowed the Puritan religious movement to grow. The King's harassment of the Puritans resulted in many of them leaving England, like those that settled in Plymouth and Boston Massachusetts. The people who founded the New Haven Colony in 1637 were another such group that decided it was better to leave the King's oppression than to try to fight it in England.

King Charles Worried

In spite of the fact that thousands of Puritans left England in the 1630s, many more stayed. The Puritan movement had grown so large by this time that the King's worst fears were coming true. His ability to rule and make decisions was being challenged by a well educated and increasingly wealthy merchant middle class. This group became the organized leadership which voiced the anger of the Puritans and which eventually led a civil war against the forces of King Charles I in 1640.

The Puritans, under the command of Oliver Cromwell, were finally able to totally defeat and capture Charles I in late 1648. This was only after nine years of bloody fighting and repeatedly failing at attempts to reach a political compromise.

Cromwell's strength was not limited to the battle field. He and others believed that the monarchy should be destroyed.



Nick Heyer

A judge's eye view of the Cave of the Three Judges on West Rock.

The idea of replacing Charles I with another, more favorable king was not acceptable to them. Instead they were determined to establish a Republic, ruled by men elected to hold office. As a result of this goal and Puritan bitterness towards the King it was decided to bring Charles I to trial for committing treason and other high crimes against the people of England.

After three weeks of trial, on Saturday, Jan. 27, 1653 the king was brought before the court to hear its judgement. "For all treasons and crimes, this court does judge that he, Charles I, is a tyrant, traitor, murderer and public enemy to the good people of this nation, and he shall be put to death by the severing of his head from his body." The 57 judges that made this decision publicly declared their support for it by signing a warrant of execution. The sentence was carried out three days later.

Judges Sought for Murder

Whalley, Goffe and Dixwell were three of the judges that signed the warrant of execution. Later each became a member of some importance in the commonwealth government of England which Oliver Cromwell headed. The execution of the King did not, however, end the differences between the Puritans and the King's supporters or royalists. If anything it gave the royalists more strength, because many moderate people felt that Cromwell and the court had gone too far. In 1660 Cromwell died and the royalists took advantage of the lack of leadership by bringing the King's eldest son back to England to restore the monarchy. Charles II became the new King with very little resistance. Knowing the names of his father's judges, Charles II immediately ordered their arrest for murder. It was at this point that Edward Whalley and William Goffe escaped to New England and eventually to New Haven.

The magistrates and ministers of New Haven led the colony in its decision to keep Whalley's and Goffe's presence a secret. Months passed in 1661 before Charles II sent an official order to Massachusetts demanding the immediate capture and return of the judges. The King had already been successful in imprisoning and executing many of the judges involved. Two royalists in Boston were commissioned to seek and apprehend Whalley and Goffe, who it was rumored were sheltered in New Haven.

Upon hearing this news Whalley and Goffe publicly thanked the colony for its assistance and friendship, and explained that they must leave for the safety of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam. But in

the middle of the following night they secretly returned to New Haven and hid in the basement of a magistrate's home. Only three or four people were aware of this deception.

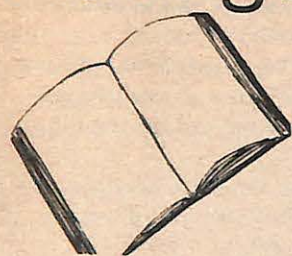
On the Run Again

When the King's men arrived in New Haven they were received coolly by the governor. They were forced to wait and work around every technical obstacle possible. They became so frustrated they decided to do house by house search without the colony's approval. During this search the judges were nearly discovered. They escaped by sitting quietly in a secret closet in the woodwork. Tragedy had been so near that further caution had to be taken.

It was at this point that the judges took refuge in the "cave" on the top of West Rock. In fact the cave was little more than large boulders leaning on each other, but it provided adequate shelter for nearly a month. Whalley and Goffe were supplied with food at the cave and other locations. Finally, the royal commissioners were convinced that the judges were no longer in New Haven and left to search for them in other places. They were safe once again and lived in the area until 1664. They then moved to Massachusetts under the pressure of another royal commission in that year.

John Dixwell did not come to New Haven until 1670 at the age of 60. Here he married twice, had three children, and spent the remainder of his life as Mr. John Davids. Only a few knew his real identity, including some that had assisted Whalley and Goffe previously. When Dixwell died his burial spot behind Center Church was marked with a simple stone and his initials, which cleverly are the same for his real and assumed names. Dixwell never suffered pursuit in New Haven. Primarily because the English authorities believed he was in Europe. Today, Dixwell's burial site can still be visited behind Center Church on the Green. A monument was raised there in 1849 by one of his descendants. A very interesting day can be spent hiking up West Rock on one of the trails to the Judge's Cave. It's possible to get a feeling for the solitude and dreariness that Whalley and Goffe must have felt there. If you're somewhat less ambitious you can drive your car up to the spot. The library has many books on New Haven History. *The Three Judges: Story of the Men who Beheaded Their King*, by Israel P. Warren is particularly well written and has very detailed information.

Poignant Look Into the Ravages of Ghetto Life



review

by Karen Rosenberg

"In Love & Trouble" by Alice Walker. Harcourt Brace Jovanoich, Inc. paperback, \$2.25.

"Stories of Black Women" is the subtitle of Alice Walker's collection. A lovesick student at a Southern girls school, an African nun, a New York librarian now radicalized, a witchdoctor, a graduate with roots in the country—here are black women from a variety of locales and classes. Alice Walker's ability to present convincing portraits of so many women is truly admirable.

Perhaps it is unfair to call these stories "portraits" since that implies a static picture of a resting person. Alice Walker sets these women in action, puts them in plots where something exciting, unusual and often terrible is happening or about to happen. Walker is a master in thinking up situations of tension which, because they are not conventional or hackneyed, are all the more effective. Writing good plots sometimes seems a lost art and Walker's accomplishment is remarkable because it is so rare today.

Scenes are Real

The horrible and amazing scenes which Walker includes in her plots are not unnecessary or superfluous, like the compulsory bang-bang shootout scenes in a movie which are thrown in to fulfill the amount of sex and violence needed to get good box office sales. Alice Walker does not dress up a boring story with a shocking scene,

she directs her story to that moment. By focusing on it, she tells her reader that pain and despair are central features in the lives of black women. It unites them despite their different origins and experiences.

Not Self-Indulgent

The hopelessness of these black women is not the self-indulgent and self-pitying melancholy of a spoiled adolescent. Their rage and sadness come from their continual frustration caused by racism, poverty and sexism. The mother who gives her sick baby to a witchdoctor because she cannot reach a real (and of course, white) doctor, or the woman who turns to magic for revenge on the person (a white woman) who denied her food in the depression—those black women are the outcasts, the outsiders who never get a peep at the American apple pie, no less a slice of it. When Alice Walker shows a militant black man estranged from his middle-class wife or a black-nationalist woman longing for her dead son, she seems to be saying that there is no possibility for hope in the current American context. She sees no means of escape from the bleak present for black women and men. These are not stories from the optimistic early '60s when some people thought that a new day was about to dawn.

In Love & Trouble is a powerful collection. There are some trite passages (two stories end with variations of "and he never looked back") and it must be admitted that Alice Walker is not as original in her descriptive passages as she is in her plots. But these imperfections cannot damage the overall effect of these stories. They are masterfully written.

Women's Group Fights Anti-Abortion Lobby

by Women vs. Connecticut

We thought we had won that right when the Supreme Court legalized abortion in early 1973. Ours was one of the thousands of struggles that helped bring about that decision. But a series of legislative attempts to undermine or change the ruling has begun in Congress. For the most part unnoticed by the public, nine anti-abortion measures have already been introduced: although their constitutionality is highly doubtful, most are still pending or have become law.

It's no surprise that behind these attempts is a high-powered lobbying campaign by "bishops, priests and so-called right-to-lifers", in Bella Abzug's words. Although polls indicate that most Catholics OPPOSE anti-abortion legislation, it is clear that the present campaign has the financial support of the organized Church.

Constitutional Amendments

The sure way to invalidate a Supreme Court decision is to amend the constitution. The most notorious attempt to do this is the Hogan Amendment, which would make abortion illegal under any circumstances—including rape, incest, or threat to mental or physical health of the mother. The wording of the Hogan Bill would make not only abortion but IUD's and certain birth control pills unconstitutional.

The Whitehurst Amendment, supposedly milder, would return abortion to the state legislatures; we can guess that in many states this would have about the same effect as Hogan's Bill.

Both amendments are in committee, while attempts are made to gather enough support to force them to the floor of the House for a vote. But recent Congressional testimony by lawyers that the Amendments are clearly unconstitutional may have lessened their chances for passage.

If they can't remove a Constitutional right, maybe they can make sure it remains an upper class privilege. The tactic here is to attach riders to all sorts of appropriations, bills, prohibiting the use of Federal funds for abortion. Some of the areas affected by such riders are:

—hospitals: a "conscience clause" amendment now says that no public or private hospital can be required to perform sterilization or abortion, even if it is the only hospital in the area.

—legal assistance: all work in relation to abortion by legal assistance: lawyers is now illegal.

—community programs: the Froelich Amendment to the Community Services Act would prohibit the use of these funds for abortion, even when the woman's life is in danger. This has passed in the House (with the help of Grasso's and Steele's votes.) and has gone to the Senate.

—all HEW funds: the Bartlett Amendment would ban all welfare, Medicaid and other HEW funds from being used "in any manner...to pay for or encourage abortion." Still in committee, this amendment is said to have substantial support and a good chance of going through.

Lawmakers vs Majority

These riders explicitly exclude poor women from a right supposedly Constitutional. All anti-abortion legislation falls hardest on poor women who don't have the resources for foreign or illegal abortions...but these riders lock the class distinction into law.

Numerous public opinion polls have shown that the majority of Americans oppose any anti-abortion legislation. Yet only a very small minority of Congress-people have stood up for this position.

What we are seeing now is that a Supreme court decision with people support is weak against Congressional maneuvers with financial support.

The position of Women vs. Connecticut is, "We demand that legislation listen to the voices of women rather than paid lobbyists of small interest groups."

US Law Helps Handicapped

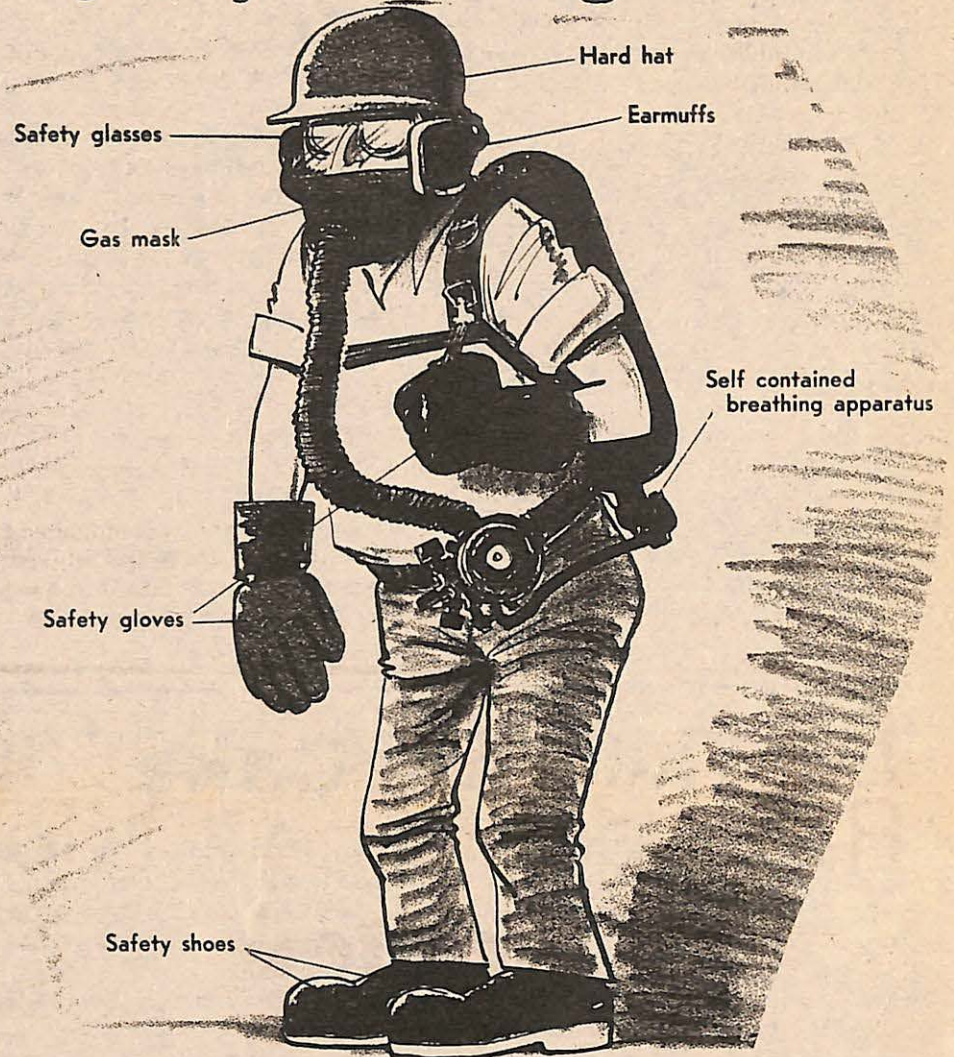
A new Federal law prohibits employers doing business with the Federal Government from discriminating against physically and mentally handicapped persons and requires that they take active steps to recruit and employ the handicapped.

The law applies to all firms holding U.S. contracts to supply more than \$2,500 in goods or services to the Federal Government. According to the U.S. Employment Standards Administration, more than 12 million Americans, aged 16-64, are physically or mentally handicapped.

In each Federal contract, the firm involved must include an affirmative clause stating that it will hire, train, promote and not discriminate against handicapped persons. Some larger employers may be required to submit a written action plan. All large firms must report annually on their efforts to employ the handicapped. Workers can file complaints if they feel their employers were unfair.

For a free fact sheet write: Employment Standards Administration, Room 5137, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Wash. D.C. 20210.

Polyvinyl Flies Again



The U.S. Labor Department's recent order requiring workers to wear face masks or respirators when exposed to dangerous doses of vinyl chloride apparently was issued without any expectation that it could be enforced. There aren't enough respirators to make compliance possible.

Apparently no one at the Labor Dept. ever studied the respirator industry, its inventories or its production capacity. Those who request such information are told, "We don't know; we don't have any figures."

Number Games

Officials of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration won't even predict how many workers will need respirators. Their figures range from as few as 8,000—counting only those engaged in the actual production of chloride—to 350,000, counting those who manufacture products made from chloride.

Even using the lower figures, officials at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) say that it could take from one to three years to produce an adequate supply of face masks.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act contains a provision permitting the exemption of individual plants from complying with safety regulations when safety equipment is not available.

Excuse for Industry

The respirator shortage has prompted the Society of Plastics Industry (SPI) to petition the Labor Dept. to suspend the

respirator requirement altogether. Under the new vinyl chloride standard, workers exposed to 25 parts of the chloride per million parts of air (ppm) must be provided with face masks beginning Jan. 1, 1975. The industry is given one year to engineer its production methods to reduce exposure to one ppm.

The trade group is claiming that if the regulation is allowed to stand, "large segments" of the plastics industry will be forced to close.

Immediately after the new standard was announced, SPI filed suit in Federal Court to block enforcement. It contends that the one ppm exposure is "unrealistic" and that it will wreak havoc on the entire plastics industry. Opening arguments on that suit are scheduled for Dec. 16 in the Second Court of Appeals, New York City. The industry is also resisting the vinyl chloride safety standard because of costs.

Cost vs. Health

NIOSH reports that most gas masks and supplied air respirators cost between \$50 and \$100. The best protection, however, is provided by a full-face, self-contained respirator with its own air tank. It costs about \$450. NIOSH researchers have found that the self-contained breathing apparatus is the only equipment that offers complete protection for vinyl chloride workers.

Workers are also concerned about the use of respirators, but for other reasons. Angelo Cefalo, IAM safety rep in Wash. D.C., explains that a full-face respirator with its own 30-minute air tank, weighs about 32 lbs. They are heavy, uncomfortable and, in many ways, create other safety hazards.

3rd AIM-Modern Times Forum



Sam Bowles

The AMERICAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT and MODERN TIMES are proud to present SAM BOWLES on: THE STATE OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY on Friday December 13. at 8 pm in the Undercroft of the United Church on the Green, corner of Elm and Temple Sts.

Mr. Bowles was born in Essex Conn. In 1960, he graduated from Yale Univ. with a B.A. In 1965, he received his PHD from Harvard in economics. He also has taught in many other Universities throughout the country and was a member of the Economic Ministry in Nigeria. He is currently Professor in Economics at the University of Mass. at Amherst.

on the job off What it's like to be one of the 6½ % ?

by Rachel Ponds

I am unemployed. I used to work until I got laid off about six weeks ago. Now I collect unemployment. I'm not embarrassed or ashamed to receive unemployment, I know that I've worked for it and that I'd be working now, if I could find a job. But, going down to the unemployment agency is a degrading experience.

First, you have to wait in those long lines, which seem like a punishment or trial to prove you deserve your checks. On top of which the people who process your claim often act as if the money they are giving you is theirs, and your only purpose for being there is to try to finagle another \$5 onto your check.

No Available Jobs

For all that I dislike going over to the agency, at least it's something to do. Once that chore is over, there's not much to replace it. I fulfill the unemployment compensation requirement and apply for jobs, but all I ever get is depressed. No one is hiring, all the shops are laying off. What jobs are available usually pay less than unemployment.

I really don't have much to do, now that I'm out of work. I used to day-dream about having lots of free time to do what I wanted, but being on unemployment doesn't provide me with the means or the time to fulfill my fantasies. I can't travel very far, because I have to be back every two weeks. Besides, I

don't have the money. I can eat with what I receive, but I can't do much more.

I can't go back to school, another dream of mine, because in order to collect unemployment I have to be available for work 24 hours a day.

Nothing to Do

Most of my friends are working, so there's no one to visit or do anything with during the day. I don't like to go to the movies by myself, it's too depressing. I can't really get involved in any project or volunteer for any length of time, because I may get a job, and then I'd have to leave something unfinished.

Mostly I stay home and read, sometimes I watch television. I can see where people really get into watching television during the day. It's entertaining in a way, but mainly it just brings other voices into the room and alleviates some of the loneliness.

I'm beginning to have empathy with the elderly people who window shop in the Mall and wander around the Green. They have always made me sad because they seemed to have no purpose. Now I have no purpose either. In this country a person's worth and purpose are synonymous with his or her livelihood, and once that is gone, so is much of his or her usefulness.

Working on somebody else's terms always bothered me some, but not nearly as much as being unemployed on the same terms.



Nick Hoyer

Endless lines for the unemployed — this one at the Employment Office, looking for non-existent jobs.

'Let Them Eat Cake!'

continued from page 1

in an economy beset by recession.

With this in mind, NA's members are spending a portion of their time investigating potential funding sources. From the Federal Government to private foundations NA is leaving no stone unturned in their efforts have yielded no positive results.

Yet, a key question to be asked is: why should it be necessary for NA to search

for funding? In fact, NA shouldn't really have to battle as hard as they have to. For the government shouldn't have to be prodded into meeting the nutritional needs of its citizens.

Still when faced with school officials who can't be bothered with providing hot breakfasts, degrading welfare procedures, and a lack of information about food programs; it's good to know a group such as NA is around.

DEAR READERS: Help MODERN TIMES

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Govt. Dials Wrong Number

continued from page 1

efficient telephone service and lower rates—not as long as private profit is still involved in public service.

In fact, A.T. & T.'s chairman, John D. deButts, claims that telephone rates will probably go way up if the government wins the suit. SNETCO agrees. Why shouldn't they?

Where did it all Come From?

The Bell Telephone Company was formed in 1877. In 1885, the directors of the Bell Telephone Company, led by Theodore N. Vail, organized the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. By 1900, it had become the holding company for the whole system, with thirty-five subsidiaries and assets of one quarter of a billion dollars.

In 1925, A.T. & T. divided up the world with I.T. & T. The Bell System took North America and ITT the rest of the world. Additionally, Western Electric sold ITT all of its European manufacturing facilities in the 1920's.

A.T. & T. claims that it ENJOYS the monopoly status of a public utility. Yet the only public thing about the telephone companies and other utilities is that we publicly guarantee them a profit. There is nothing intrinsically evil about monopoly or bigness or efficiency. The question is: Who reaps the benefits?



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